

File: H\_E\_Hall\_1858\_03\_09.doc

2010 March 15: typed by IB from a transcript made 16 November 1988 by H M Wilson.

2010 March 20: checked against MS by IB

*Note:* Henry's letter contains many errors, such as mis-spellings and incomplete words, and he is occasionally incoherent. I have checked my transcript several times, and the text below is a faithful copy of the original letter

Henry Edward Hall to 'My dear sons', 9 March 1858

Wongung March 9 1858

My dear Sons

It is with extreem sorrow I have to inform you of the loss of your dear Mother which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>ry</sup> Wednesday on the Thursday previous she was affected by the Sun in consequence of going several times from the House to the Kitchen without an Umbrella or any thing to protect her head from the Sun she complained of a headache and went to bed earlier than usual in the mor<sup>g</sup> she did not get up for Breakfast but took a cup of Tea in Bed shortly after she was taken with a frequent sickness which continued all day with low fever I gave her some Medicine and on Sat produced a fine health perspiration which relieved her a stopt the sickness on the Sunday she sat up on the Sofa some times reclining for several hour on the Monday she continued the same but got out of bed repeatedly which I [?wish] her not to do but she said the day was so hot she could not lay on the bed (the Glass was at 98 in the shade) I told her the consequences would be very dangerous if she took cold on the Tuesday she complained of a pain in the Chest which was alleviated by hot flannels but a difficulty of breathing commenced before noon and continued all that day at night she slept for 4 hours at one time and several times for 1 hour or more the difficulty of breathing continued on the Wed mor<sup>g</sup> till afternoon when she appeared faint she took Tea and Gruel and occasionally a bit of bread or toast but would not take sugar in any thing she took a cup of Tea and milk about 7 oClock when we took ours I then wished to raise her a little up with pillow but she said she laid easy but if I [?wish] it she would have them she said it was very nice and smiled I had my arm under her neck and my left hand on her cheek she talked to me for a short time and then appeared to doze I did not alter my position for fear of disturbing her but I thought she was breathing very easy in a short time I put my ear to her mouth and found she was breathing as easy as an Infant her eyes continued half open and the mouth slightly open as when she was

speaking to me I remained in that manner looking at her for some time and did not perceive the least alteration I then passed my hand from her cheek to her neck to feel if the Artery beat as full as it had done some time before When Oh merciful God I recollect no more but that I felt as if I had received a heavy stunning blow at the back of the crown of my head the pain in that part and the extreem soreness of the scalp still continues it was as near 8 oClock as could be Anderton started at 12 to Perth to acquaint Frank who had taken some cattle in on the Tu and to order Smith to make the Coffin and attend the Funeral she was interred on the Friday mor<sup>g</sup> at the S E corner of the Garden at the end of the Trellis that I described to you in a former letter the Rev<sup>d</sup> Sam Hardy kindly came as Mr Pownell was at Guilford to inter Mrs D Williams who died at 2 oClock in the morning of the same day you must excuse this as I have not heart to read what I have I have written I tried a great many times before I could begin these letters may God preserve you my dear Children a may you at the appointed time have a happy meeting with your dear Mother

H E Hall